

Seeking Art in Central Europe

The Heritage of the Hanse

A Prospectus



October 9 – October 19, 2025

Welcome!

We are pleased to have you join us on what promises to be an exciting, fascinating, and rewarding excursion. If you're like most people, you don't think of northern Germany as a center of art. However, with the Hanseatic League trade association, this region of the country dominated commercial activity along the Baltic Sea from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century. With that economic dominance came the rise of imposing architectural monuments—often castles of various types—and paintings to record for posterity the key figures of the era and representations of life in maritime villages. This trip traces some of that Hanseatic influence by visiting cities that once were part of this association and by exploring the buildings and art works that attest to their economic influence. In addition, you'll find time to sketch and paint for your personal portfolios. (The grounds on which these castles are situated offer copious opportunities to draw and paint in beautiful settings.) You'll return home having seen some magnificent works of art, having undertaken new adventures, having produced some interesting works of your own, and having accumulated a treasury of valuable memories.



Outbound Flight*



Depart The airport of departure and return will be determined in consultation with the respective participant(s).

Arrive Helmut Schmidt International Airport, Hamburg, Germany

*Flight arrangements are tentative until tickets are issued.

Day 1: Arrival in Hamburg; Transfer to Lübeck



After arriving at Helmut Schmidt International Airport and proceeding through passport control and customs, we'll take the regional train to Lübeck.



Lübeck was the long-time capital of the Hanseatic League, a commercial alliance of merchants in cities bordering the North and Baltic seas. The wealth that this

association produced is evident throughout the city, from the majestic Holstentor leading into the old part of town to the numerous brick buildings constructed during the heyday of the Hanse. Few cities this size have the artistic, historical, and cultural treasures that one finds in Lübeck.

We will check into our hotel, freshen up, and then head out for dinner. The day will end early to allow participants a chance to recover from jet lag and prepare for the myriad activities of the coming days.





Day 2: Schwerin and Wiligrad Castles



Before we begin our exploration of Lübeck, we will take an early train east to Schwerin, the capital and second-largest and oldest city in the German state of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. We'll tour the city's castle and grounds, then head north along the shore of Lake Schwerin to find Wiligrad Castle. At both sites there will be time to sketch, draw, and paint in individual portfolios.



Day 3: Lübeck I



Hans Memling (ca. 1435-1494), "Holiday" view of the Passion Altarpiece of the Family Greverade, 1491. (Left wing: On the Mount of Olives; Center: The crucifixion; Right wing: The resurrection.)

"The Queen of the Hanse"—this was Lübeck's nickname during the centuries it served as the capital of the Hanseatic League. We'll check out the massive Holstentor—the city gate—and then visit some of the repositories of art scattered around the old town: the Museum Behnhaus, the St. Annen Museum, and more.



Edvard Munch (1863-1944), *The Sons of Dr. Max Linde*, 1903. Oil on canvas, 144.5 cm x 180.7 cm.



Day 4: Lübeck II



We'll conclude our stay in Lübeck with a look at some other cultural offerings. The city is famous for its creations made from marzipan, so we'll visit a museum that specializes in this treat and watch as the paste is molded into various figures. We'll stop by the cathedral to see one of the great houses of worship in northern Germany, and we'll take a final look at the city from a boat circumnavigating the old town.

Day 5: Getting to Know Hamburg



With a population of just under two million residents, Hamburg is Germany's second-largest city. Its location at the southern end of the estuary where the Elbe River flows into the North Sea also makes it Germany's largest port city.

Upon arriving back in this city-state from Lübeck, we'll drop off our luggage at the hotel and mount bikes for a tour of the city on two wheels. This survey will give us an introduction to many of the places we'll get to know in greater detail over the course of the following days. We'll then spend time drawing along the Binnen- and Außenalster.

October
15
Wednesday

Day 6: Art and Design, Classical and Modern



Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669), *Simeon and Hanna in the Temple*, 1627. Oil on oak, 55.5 cm x 44 cm.

begin to cover the list of artists whose works are on display. More than 140,000 prints, drawings, and photographs supplement the main collection of paintings and sculpture. The nearby Museum of Art and Industry continues the study with works including posters, textiles, pottery, jewelry, furniture, and musical instruments. One also finds samples of ancient, Islamic, and East Asian art.

Two major collections of art will command our attention today. The first is Hamburg's Kunsthalle. One of Germany's major art institutes, the Kunsthalle presents works from eight centuries of European history, from the Middle Ages to the modern day. Cranach, Tiepolo, Rembrandt, van Dyke, Goya, Friedrich, Degas, Monet, Gauguin, Munch, Beckmann, and Richter only



Amir Kariminian (2019), *Kurdish Puppets Festival*. Poster.

Day 7: Special Sights in Hamburg

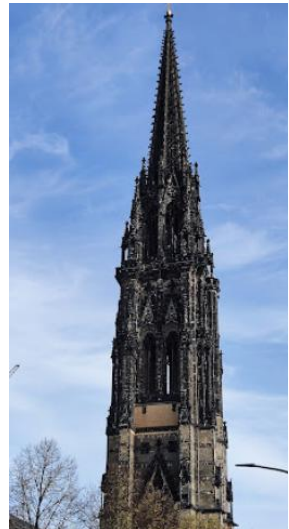


As early as 1195, a chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas was built in the area known as the Neustadt ("New City"). It served predominantly persons involved in trade and shipping. Over the centuries it suffered repeated damage from storms and fire but was rebuilt every time. The final destruction came with the Allied bombing in 1943. Because reconstruction in war-torn Germany would be too expensive, just the tower and foundation were rebuilt. It stands today as a warning against the ravages of war.

Following a visit to this memorial, we'll stop by the Chocolate Museum to sample various delicacies and participate in the creation of our own signature bar.



Finally, we'll spend the rest of the day at the Miniature Wonderland, the world's largest model railroad, with more than ten miles of track, 1,200 engines, 12,000 cars, 5,200 buildings and bridges, 11,000 automobiles, 157,000 trees, and 292,000 figures. The longest train stretches almost 48 feet. Over 1.2 million hours have been invested in its construction, at a cost of €45 million. One can spend hours enjoying the display and still not see everything.





Day 8: Hamburg and Its Harbor

As Germany's largest port city, Hamburg has a harbor that naturally plays a major role in the life of the town.



We'll start the day with a tour of a submarine, the Russian spy sub U-434. Bought by Hamburg's Submarine Museum in 2002, the unit had spent a quarter century in the service of the Russian marines, mainly as a spy boat on the eastern coast of the United States and in the territorial waters of the Soviet Union.

Afterwards we'll proceed to the warehouse and business district. The wealth brought into Hamburg through its important role in the Hanseatic League and up through World War II has allowed the construction of architecturally distinct and impressive buildings.



It's a lively area to this day (having recovered from the destruction of the war) and will give us a sense of the activity that surrounds a leading, functioning harbor.

In the evening, we'll take in a cultural performance in the area.

Day 9: Hamburg

Potpourri



Our final day in this metropolis on the Elbe will consist of a mixture of events. We'll stop by St. Michael's Church, a landmark of the city and a defining example of Hanseatic Protestant baroque architecture.



Then we'll stroll through the Top Hat District, so named because the residents in the upscale district would greet each other by tipping their hats as they passed. It is known to this day for the distinctiveness of its villas and the pleasant surroundings.

Finally we'll return to the water

and explore the Old Elbe Tunnel, once a key thoroughfare connecting the residential areas of the city to the port. Closed to vehicular traffic in 2023, it remains open to bicycles and pedestrians.





The day will get off to an early start. After checking out of the hotel, we'll head to the Helmut Schmidt International Airport for the return flight to the United States.

Inbound Flight*



Depart Helmut Schmidt International Airport, Hamburg, Germany

Arrive The airport of departure and return will be determined in consultation with the respective participant(s).

*Flight arrangements are tentative until tickets are issued.

Nota Bene

All information contained in this brochure is provisional. While serious effort has been put into planning an itinerary that not only meets the educational objectives of this trip but also allows for the most efficient use of time and resources, circumstances beyond our control could occasion a rescheduling or an elimination of various items from the itinerary.

Summary of the Itinerary

Date	Event
Thu, Oct 9	Departure from the U. S.
Fri, Oct 10	Arrival in Hamburg Transfer to Lübeck
Sat, Oct 11	Visit—the Schwerin Castle and Museum Visit—the Wiligrad Castle
Sun, Oct 12	Visit—the Museum Behnhaus Drägerhaus Tour—the Saint Annen Museum
Mon, Oct 13	Visit—the Marzipan Museum Visit—the Cathedral of Lübeck Tour—Lübeck's Old Town by boat
Tue, Oct 14	Return to Hamburg Tour—Hamburg by bicycle Time for plein air work at the Binnen- and Außenalsters
Wed, Oct 15	Visit—Hamburg Kunsthalle Visit—the Museum of Art and Industry
Thu, Oct 16	Visit—the St. Nicholas Memorial Visit—the Chocolate Museum Visit—Miniature Wonderland
Fri, Oct 17	Visit—the Submarine Museum Tour—the Speicherstadt (warehouse and business district) Evening cultural event
Sat, Oct 18	Visit—St. Michael's Church Tour—the Top Hat District Visit—the Old Elbe Tunnel
Sun, Oct 19	Return to the U. S.



SEEKING ART IN CENTRAL EUROPE (The Heritage of the Hanse) October 9 – October 19, 2025

AMENITIES, COST, AND DEADLINES

Seeking Art in Central Europe is a nine-day (eleven-day, if flight days are included in the count) program that combines visits to museums and galleries in Hamburg and northern Germany with time for drawing and painting works to add to the participant's portfolio.

A comprehensive price* for the program includes the following amenities:

- 🚢 Round-trip airfare between the United States and Europe
- 🚢 Accommodations (multiple occupancy) and meals (meals directly or by stipend)
- 🚢 All ground transportation
- 🚢 All entrances, tours, and tips at museums and sights
- 🚢 Professional artistic instruction and guidance

The cost of this program is **\$4,000**. Students currently enrolled in a school or college receive an automatic discount of **\$500**. Registrants who have previously traveled with Magdeburg Explorations receive a discount of **\$200**. Students who have previously traveled with Magdeburg Explorations may apply a combined discount of **\$700** to one art trip offered by the organization in 2025.

The deadline for registration and payment of fees for the trip to Hamburg is **Wednesday, April 30, 2025**.

Details regarding fees and payment are listed on the "Registration and Payment" page of the site.

Questions may be directed to Magdeburg Explorations (<info@magdeburgprep.org>). Enrollment is limited, so early action is recommended.

*Participants are responsible for expenses related to passports, travel to and from the departure and return airport, trip insurance (if desired), and personal items.



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